

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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XIAO LIANG CHEN,

Petitioner,

v.

17-CV-601  
DECISION AND ORDER

JEFFREY B. SESSIONS, US  
ATTORNEY GENERAL; JOHN F KELLY,  
Secretary of Homeland Security;  
THOMAS P. BROPHY, ICE ERO Field  
Office Director – Buffalo; and ROBERT F.  
JUDGE, ICE Assistant Field Officer  
Director,

Respondents.

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The pro se petitioner, Xiao Liang Chen, seeks relief from his continued administrative custody and detention pending removal under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. For the reasons set forth below, the respondents' motion to dismiss is granted, and Xiao Liang Chen's petition is dismissed as moot.

On April 22, 2016, after he was released from custody by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Chen was taken into custody by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. See Docket Item 1. Since April 22, 2016, Chen was held at the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility awaiting an immigration decision. *Id.* His actual removal took some time, however, and on June 30, 2017, Chen filed the instant petition challenging his continued administrative custody. *Id.*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Because Chen did not challenge his final order of removal in this Court, and because this Court would not have had jurisdiction to address such a challenge had it been brought, a stay of removal was not entered. See Docket Item 1; see, e.g., *Morillo*

Following removal proceedings on or about November 16, 2017, Chen was removed to his native country, China. Docket Item 9-1.

The respondents now have moved to dismiss the petition as moot because Chen was removed to China on or about December 5, 2017. Docket Item 9. Counsel for the respondents has submitted a copy of the United States Department of Homeland Security "Warrant of Removal/Deportation" verifying the petitioner's removal. Docket Item 9-1.

Accordingly, because Chen now has been removed and no longer is in the custody of the United States Department of Homeland Security, his petition is moot, the respondents' motion to dismiss the petition is granted, and the petition is dismissed.<sup>2</sup>

The Court hereby certifies under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal from this judgment would not be taken in good faith and therefore denies leave to appeal as a poor person. *Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438 (1962).

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*v. DHS & Bice Det. Ctr.*, 2006 WL 1007645, at \*1 (N.D.N.Y. Apr. 17, 2006) ("Moreover, to the extent that [p]etitioner is only seeking a stay of his removal, this Court would also be without jurisdiction to address this request."); *Aime v. DHS*, 2005 WL 1971894, \*1 (W.D.N.Y. Aug. 16, 2005) ("since petitioner challenges an order of removal within the meaning of the REAL ID Act, [Section] 106(b) . . . this Court has no jurisdiction to review the merits of the petition or to stay the order of removal.").

<sup>2</sup> See *Arthur v. DHS/ICE*, 713 F. Supp. 2d 179 (W.D.N.Y. 2010) (accepting report and recommendation) (finding petition for a writ of habeas corpus seeking release from detention pending removal to be moot upon removal of petitioner); *Masoud v. Filip*, 2009 WL 223006 (W.D.N.Y. Jan. 27, 2009) (accepting report and recommendation) (finding petition for a writ of habeas corpus filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 seeking release from detention pending removal to be moot upon release of petitioner from detention pursuant to order of supervision); see also *Leybinsky v. ICE*, 553 Fed. App'x 108 (2d Cir. 2014) (summary order) (finding that petitioner's release from ICE custody pending removal following final order of removal moots petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, and "capable of repetition but evading review" exception to mootness doctrine does not apply).

The petitioner must file any notice of appeal with the Clerk's Office, United States District Court, Western District of New York, within sixty (60) days of the date of judgment in this action. Requests to proceed on appeal as a poor person must be filed with the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in accordance with the requirements of Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 24.

This Court DISMISSES the petition and DENIES leave to appeal as a poor person.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: September 7, 2018  
Buffalo, New York

***s/ Lawrence J. Vilardo***  
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LAWRENCE J. VILARDO  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE